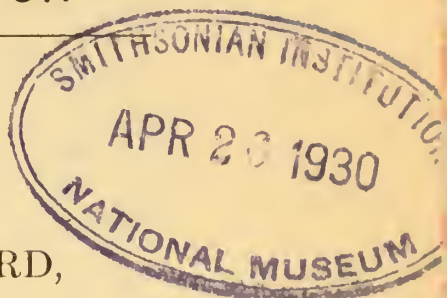


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF LIZARD,
HISPANIOLUS PRATENSIS, FROM
THE HAITIAN REPUBLIC.

BY DORIS M. COCHRAN.

During an excursion to Haiti in March and April, 1925, Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., of the United States National Museum, secured an important collection of amphibians and reptiles, among which are half-a-dozen specimens of a striped lizard representing a new genus allied to *Leiocephalus*. Mr. Miller found the animal rather common in the grass and scrub along the banks of small gullies in the northern edge of the central plain of Haiti (altitude about 425 meters). He did not see it on the nearby limestone hills. He noticed that in running it did not elevate its tail in the manner which is so conspicuous in *Leiocephalus personatus*, a lizard which was frequently seen on the roadway near sea level in the region of Saint Marc and Gonaives; also that it differed from *Leiocephalus personatus* in its fondness for scrub and grassy cover.

Hispaniolus, new genus.

Diagnosis.—Tympanum distinct; body slightly compressed; no dorsal or caudal crests; tail long, rounded; dorsal scales uniform, imbricate, keeled. Upper head-scales enlarged, keeled; occipital small. No transverse gular fold; no gular sac. Digits compressed, with keeled lamellae inferiorly. No femoral or preanal pores. Lateral teeth tricuspid; pterygoids not toothed. A sternal fontanelle closed by cartilage. No abdominal ribs.

This genus is somewhat similar to *Leiocephalus* in head scalation and general proportions. It differs in having no dorsal or caudal crests, in having a different style of coloration and in not being able to curl its round tail up over the back when running, as is the habit of the *Leiocephali* with compressed tails.

Hispaniolus pratensis, new species.

Type.—U. S. N. M. No. 69189, an adult male collected at the Atalaye plantation near St. Michel, Département du Nord, Republic of Haiti on March 23, 1925, by Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

Description of the type.—Head-shields enlarged, all ridged excepting the internasals, which are smooth; nasal in contact with rostral; two scales between the rostral and the first supraocular; internasals very elongate; the frontals, prefrontals and internasals embracing a medial series of two subequal scales which completely separate the prefrontals but which do not reach the rostral; prefrontals separated from the canthals by an elongate scale; three supraorbitals; five supraoculars on each side, the fifth very small; occipital plate small, bordered laterally by two pairs of distinct parietals, the outer pair considerably larger than the inner pair; four upper and four lower labials to middle of eye. Dorsal scales large, uniform, extremely imbricate and mucronate; laterals slightly smaller, keeled; ventrals smooth, their posterior edges not denticulate; about 41 scales around the middle of the body; about 42 scales from occiput to a point directly above the vent; about 10 dorsal scales to a head-length; scales of the neck like the dorsals, those behind the ear keeled and imbricate, not granular; anterior auricular margin with two well-developed projecting scales. Shoulder folds present, but no lateral folds. The hind leg adpressed reaches only to a point a little in front of the shoulder. Digits compressed; fourth toe with 24 keeled lamellae. No dorsal or caudal crests, the scales of the mid-dorsal region like the surrounding scales in size and carination; the keels of the lateral and dorsal scales directed backwards and upwards, so that the longitudinal scale-rows strongly converge on the back. Tail round, about twice as long as the head and body taken together.

Dimensions.—Length of head, 11 mm.; body, 36 mm.; tail, 90 mm.; arm, 17 mm.; leg, 30 mm.; width of head, 8 mm.

Head olive-gray with some round black spots on the sutures of the head-shields; body light olive-gray, with ten dark brown stripes on back and sides running from the head onto the tail; three lateral white stripes between the brown ones on each side, the lowest white stripe running from in front of the shoulder to the groin and down the hind leg; the middle white stripe beginning in front of the eye, passing through the eye, through the ear and along the body onto the tail; the uppermost white stripe beginning at the upper posterior border of the eye, passing above the ear and along the body onto the tail. Ventral scales peppered with very minute gray dots, some of the scales with light bluish centers. Throat iridescent pale violet and green, with some small widely scattered gray spots. Upper and lower lips edged with black.

Variations.—In five paratypes from the same locality taken by the same collector the scalation shows remarkably little variation, as all without exception conform in number of supraoculars, in number and position of medial scales on the center of the snout and in having ten dorsal scales in a head-length. The scales around the body are about 40 or 41 in

number, although the excessive irregularity of the longitudinal rows make it difficult to be definite about this count, as it will differ if taken a quarter of an inch away in either direction. There are from 40 to 42 scales in a row from the occiput to a point directly above the vent. In two of the paratypes (69184 and 69185) the internasal plates, which are very elongate in the other four specimens, have divided transversely so that there are *two* scales between the first supraocular and that portion of the internasal actually in contact with the rostral. The largest individual, 69184, has a head-length of 12 mm. and from occiput to base of tail it measures 42 mm.

The stripes of some of the paratypes are not so evenly developed as in the type. In two specimens, the middle one of the three white lateral stripes is almost obsolete, while the brown stripe above the uppermost white lateral stripe is broadened and emphasized. The borders to the lips are not conspicuously darkened in some cases and the gray spots on the throat are not always evident, the throat being suffused with gray occasionally. None of the specimens show any traces whatever of the black bars or chevrons across the back which are usually so pronounced in most species of the genus *Leiocephalus*.